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Office for Information
Technology Policy

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ALA American Library Association

FAX TRANSMITTAL

To: Chairman Reed Hundt 418 2801
Commissioner Rachelle Chong 418 2820
Commissioner Susan Ness 418 2821
Commissioner James Quello 418 2802
From: Andrew Magpantay, Director, OITP
Re: CC 96-45: Universal Service
Date: May 2, 1997
Pages: 2, including this cover sheet.

RECEIVED**MAY 12 1997**

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Please find a copy of a letter to the editor by LeVar Burton that appeared in this morning's USA Today. The letter deals with the critical issue of providing discounts to schools and libraries and the impact that it will have.

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28A • FRIDAY, MAY 2, 1997 • USA TODAY

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

LETTERS

Schools, libraries need discount online charges

Schools and public libraries can and should be critical links to the Internet for people of all ages. Only about a fifth of U.S. families now have Internet access at home. For those who can't afford computers and online charges, their school or public library is a natural access point.

Supported largely by tax dollars, libraries are the heart of our nation's information infrastructure. They provide books, encyclopedias and other resources for people of all ages and backgrounds. Providing access to electronic information is a natural extension of this role.

And librarians are there to help us use the Internet and make wise choices about the wealth of information available.

But according to the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, fewer than a third of America's public libraries can now offer direct public Internet access.

The main barrier? Most libraries, especially those in remote areas, can't afford the high cost of long distance and other telecommunications charges.

Relief is in sight but only if the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) acts promptly to ensure deep discounts on telecommunications charges.

The Telecommunications Act passed by Congress last year designates libraries and schools as universal providers eligible for such discounts on telecommunications rates. The FCC is expected to announce how large the discounts will be and to what services they will apply.

These discounts are desperately needed if our nation's libraries and schools are to get on with the urgent business of providing the public with online connections.

For the nation's most profitable industry, these discounts are a small investment in increased consumer exposure that can potentially add to their profits.

It's up to the FCC to turn Congress' good intentions into reality. Sixty percent of the jobs created by the year 2000 will require Americans to be computer literate.

Without significant discounts for schools and libraries, 21st century information technology will remain a science-fiction fantasy for millions of children and adults.

LeVar Burton, member
Nat'l. Commission on Libraries
and Information Science
Chicago, Ill.

MISSOURI

STATE DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

Post Office Box 719 • 419 East High Street
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
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CC9645
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Secretary

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April 28, 1997

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Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington D.C. 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Sir,

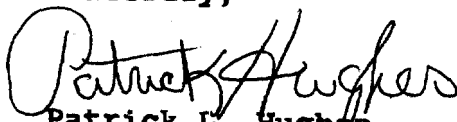
RE: "E" Rates for schools

On Saturday, April 26, 1997, the Missouri State Democratic Committee approved the enclosed resolution asking the Commission to implement the "E-Rate" (educational rates) so that schools can get discounted rates for telecommunications services that will be extremely beneficial to our students.

New technology should be available to the largest number of students possible.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,


Patrick E. Hughes
Secretary

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Whereas, the Snowe-Rockefeller Amendment to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 gives schools and libraries the opportunity to receive discounts, if approved by the FCC, and

Whereas, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service has recommended that:

- There should be an "E-Rate" (education rate) for telecommunication services for every public and private non-profit school in the nation, eligible for discounts from 20 to 90 percent.

- Internet access as well as internal connections are subject to these discounts.

- Schools and libraries should have maximum opportunity for "all" commercially available telecommunications service through discounts including telephone lines, coaxial cable and fiber optics as well as cellular and satellite communications.

- Funding to support this initiative will come from the Universal Service Fund, administered by an independent administrator and total up to \$2.25 billion a year, and

Whereas, the Democratic Party of the State of Missouri believes it is important to advance educational opportunities in every feasible way, and

Whereas, currently, only 14 percent of all classrooms are connected to the Internet, and

Whereas, our nations students should have the greatest possible opportunity to utilize communications technology,

Now, therefor, Be it resolved by the Democratic Party of Missouri that

The FCC should implement the "E-Rate" in accordance with the recommendations of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, and the Democratic Party of Missouri urges the Commissioners to do so in their meeting, scheduled for May 1997, in Washington, D. C.

Moved by Ken Curtis, 15th Sen. District



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AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT
PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA 96799
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

In reply refer to:

Serial: 136-97
COM: 11
May 6, 1997

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1990 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

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MAY 12 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Re: Federal-State Board on
Universal Service
CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The Governor of American Samoa has asked the Office of Communications to submit comments on the matter of universal service, particularly on the need for schools, libraries and health care providers to have access to advanced telecommunications services as provided in S254(b) (6) of the new Telecommunications Act. Our office acts as the local telephone exchange in American Samoa and also provides outbound interstate service by agreement with major long-distance carriers. The major carriers provide inbound interstate service.

To satisfy S254(b) (6), we believe that discounts in charges for both local and interstate service can and should be provided for schools, libraries, and health care facilities in American Samoa in order to facilitate the use of advanced telecommunications services and techniques. With regard to interstate service, we believe that the discounts should apply to both inbound and outbound traffic and that all long-distance carriers serving American Samoa should offer such discounts.

The Office of Communications is prepared to take the lead in offering discounts for schools, libraries, and health care providers, and we are also prepared to work with our major long-distance carriers in arranging a rational and comprehensive package of such discounts. Our preliminary assessment is that the discounts for schools, libraries, and health care providers could range up to 50 percent of the normal charges for local and long-distance service.

Very truly yours,

ALEKI SENE
Director of Communications

cc: Honorable Tauese P.F. Sunia
Governor of American Samoa

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MAY 12 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

May 4, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 m St. NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20054

e
cc: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

There are many benefits to
bringing the internet into school
systems. It gives students more
resources, it allows more communication,
and it explores the world, not of
a small town. It has an enormous
amount of information.

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The internet provides access to a world of information on any subject. Many dictionaries are either out dated or don't have a lot of research materials, therefore, the internet shows pictures and loads of fun, exciting information.

Not only does the internet provide better resources, it allows for communication from all over the world. Thousands of people find jobs through the internet and friends. Hours are spent talking to people and learning about their cultures and

languages.

Through using the internet, many different countries can be explored. There are no limitations to what one may find on the internet. You can even plan a whole trip right through it.

Although the internet has many, many advantages, I'm sure it has disadvantages, too.

Nothing is an easy street, but it can still be ridden.

Sincerely,

Mandy Francis

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May 1, 1997

Honorable Reed Hundt

We are very much
opposed to the Rating
System (age-based).
We want a content-
based system, along
with a family prove.

Thank you very much,
Sincerely,

Maileyn & Richard
Kent

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Office of Secretary

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